

Q “I would like the vanity area to make a real statement in the cloakroom – any advice on how to achieve this?”



Natalie McHugh
NK Living

A “If you want to impress your guests, don’t go for the standard vanity unit with a cupboard underneath which can end up dominating the space. Remember, you don’t have to store all the endless toiletries you have in your main bathroom, so a freestanding table works well with a vessel basin. Shop around and take time to find a more unusual piece of furniture. You may also already have a table or a small console unit you could upcycle. The narrower the legs are the better, as this will help give a feeling of space.”



◀ In this design by Brilliant Lighting, a linear LED light fitting under the basin floodlights the vanity area. Putting each set of lights on a separate circuit allows you to opt for different lighting designs – like low-level illumination in the evening, when installed with a dimmer switch. Similar linear fitting costs around £136 per m. brilliantlighting.co.uk

▶ Interior designer Beth Dadswell of Imperfect Interiors kept this project’s lighting scheme simple. The feature fittings are installed either side of the mirror – like low-level illumination in the evening, when installed with a dimmer switch. Similar linear fitting costs around £136 per m. imperfectinteriors.co.uk

▲ This cloakroom scheme by John Cullen Lighting looks inviting even without natural light. Fazer downlights, priced £199, are used in the niche behind the WC, while low-level Manhattan floor washers, £92, installed above the skirting boards illuminate the floor. johncullenlighting.com



▼ Treat the area behind the basin as a feature wall to make it stand out. In this project by Natalie McHugh of NK Living, the floor-to-ceiling tiles behind the vanity – made from glass with a brass edging – create a dramatic effect. A similar cloakroom project would cost around £8000. nkliving.co.uk

◀ If you have a bit more floor space available and need additional storage in the cloakroom, opt for a vanity basin unit. This slate grey unit from Roper Rhodes’s Esta range is a good alternative to a standard white unit. Priced from £272. roperrhodes.co.uk

▶ This space may be small, but the vanity area makes a statement. Laura Simpson of My Bespoke Room cleverly designed every element to work together – from a mix of hexagonal white marble tiles and contrasting floral wallpaper to the wall-hung enamel bucket basin with brass taps. Similar fittings would be priced around £800. mybespokeroom.com



Q “My cloakroom doesn’t have a window. How can I use lighting to make it a more welcoming space?”



Sally Storey
Creative director of John Cullen Lighting

A “I’m always telling my clients that lighting is one of the most powerful interior design tools. And I would encourage anyone to treat their cloakroom like any other room in the house when it comes to choosing lights. It can be tempting to choose a simple single fitting on the ceiling – it’s perfectly functional, but it won’t dazzle your guests or add anything to the décor. There are plenty of other options available, though. Extravagant decorative fittings are a growing trend for cloakrooms – like chandeliers, balanced with built in low-level spots in the skirting boards. They give a much more interesting multi-layered effect and in the evening you can set the mood with just the low-level lighting.”

